

Comment Form: Weighted Lottery

We heard from many who advocated abandoning or seriously overhauling the existing Waitlist System. Through the DEIS the National Park Service responded by proposing to replace the waitlist with a Weighted Lottery.

Now that we've outlined the general, overarching framework, the next step is to hear suggestions and proposals from you regarding the details. The following are some questions to get you started:

1. As people apply, should the system provide information about how many applications have been received for each launch opportunity? What are the pros and cons?
2. In the proposed system each individual member of the applicant group unsuccessful in the lottery gets an extra chance the next year. In subsequent years these individuals can choose to apply with the same or a different group seeking launch dates in the same month or different month. Should a group's overall chance be based on: a) the trip leader's chance, b) the maximum chances held by any individual member of the group, c) the average chances of all applicant group members, or d) something else? Why?
3. After trips are awarded, anyone else can be added as a participant provided they have not already taken a trip during that same year. To prevent group members who intend to go together from applying separately, what proportion of the group must actually participate in the trip if the group obtains a permit? For example, should it be required that 50% of the participants that actually go on the trip must have been listed with the group's original lottery application?
4. What other suggestions do you have about how to make the proposed Weighted Lottery system work?

Your Name:
Address: